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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,185	03/10/2004	Katsuki Morimoto	OMRNP078	5296
22434	7590	09/06/2006	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP			IQBAL, NADEEM	
P.O. BOX 70250			ART UNIT	
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			PAPER NUMBER	
			2114	

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/798,185	MORIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nadeem Iqbal	2114	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>Apr 11, 05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toshiya (Patent Abstract of Japan, Publication number 10270120, provided by the Applicants in the IDS).
3. As per claim 1, With reference to a method of identifying a connection error and distinguishing the second module connected to the first module. Toshiya teaches (Abstract, lines 1-4) monitoring the erroneous connection, nonconnection, or disconnection by a cable by generating ID numbers corresponding to connectors. With reference to determining whether the distinguished second modules are preliminarily registered or not. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 1-2). With reference to judging that there is a connection error if the distinguished second modules are not preliminarily registered. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 4-6). With reference to each of the steps is carried out by one of the modules selected from the group consisting of the first module and the plurality of second modules. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 5-8).
4. As per claim 2, With reference to first module has a plurality of connectors, and each of the second modules being mounted to a corresponding different one of the connectors. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 1-3) that connector intrinsic connection ID numbers are

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multiplexed with bits of communication information and comparison between substrate's own ID number and mating substrate's ID number with comparators.

5. As per claim 3, With reference to a plurality of second modules are preliminarily registered as a combination corresponding to a plurality of the connectors. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 4-6).

6. As per claim 4, With reference to judging comprises judging a connection error also if a module cannot be distinguished in the step of distinguishing. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 3-5).

7. As per claim 5, Toshiya substantially teaches the claimed invention as disclosed related to claim 1 above. With reference to making a report when it is judged in the step of judging that there is a connection error. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 4-5).

8. As per claim 6, With reference to first module has a plurality of connectors, and each of the second modules being mounted to a corresponding different one of the connectors, He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 1-3) that connector intrinsic connection ID numbers are multiplexed with bits of communication information and comparison between substrate's own ID number and mating substrate's ID number with comparators. With reference to determining whether the distinguished second modules are preliminarily registered or not. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 1-2). With reference to judging that there is a connection error if the distinguished second modules are not preliminarily registered. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 4-6). With reference to each of the steps is carried out by one of the modules selected from the group consisting of the first module and the plurality of second modules. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 5-8).

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9. As per claim 7, With reference to first module has a plurality of connectors, and each of the second modules being mounted to a corresponding different one of the connectors. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 1-3) that connector intrinsic connection ID numbers are multiplexed with bits of communication information and comparison between substrate's own ID number and mating substrate's ID number with comparators.

10. As per claim 8, With reference to a plurality of second modules are preliminarily registered as a combination corresponding to a plurality of the connectors. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 4-6).

11. As per claim 9, With reference to judging comprises judging a connection error also if a module cannot be distinguished in the step of distinguishing. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 3-5).

12. As per claim 10, With reference to making a report when it is judged in the step of judging that there is a connection error. He teaches (Abstract, solution, lines 4-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

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evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

15. Claims 11 & 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshiya (Patent Abstract of Japan, Publication number 10270120) in view of Shimizu U.S. Patent number 5943277).

16. As per claim 11, Toshiya does not explicitly disclose a limiting part that limits at least a portion of operations. Shimizu teaches (col. 9, lines 2-5) that when the occurrence of the connection fault is confirmed as a result of the detection of the connection state, the memory device is connected again so as to output the existing data inside the memory unit. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the invention of Shimizu into the invention of Toshiya to be able to limit a portion of operations. This is because both inventions are in the same environment of monitoring and identifying connections and also Shimizu teaches (col. 2, lines 65-67) to utilize minimum necessary data memory, and without rewriting existing data, therefore provides motivation for the stated inclusion.

17. As per claim 12, Toshiya does not explicitly disclose a control circuit which is mounted either to the base substrate or to the mounting board and that the control circuit includes a distinguishing part. Shimizu teaches (col. 9, lines 29-31) an adapter has an interface function which allows access to a personal computer. He thus with the inclusion with Toshiya invention provides a control circuit as claimed.

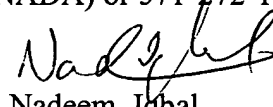
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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nadeem Iqbal whose telephone number is (571)-272-3659. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Baderman can be reached on (571)-272-3644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Nadeem Iqbal
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2114

NI